

REMARKS

Initially, is it noted that this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

By the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-9 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the recently allowed parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 09/962,487, filed September 25, 2001). Accordingly, Claims 10-12 remain pending in the present divisional patent application.

In addition, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended, by the foregoing amendments, to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

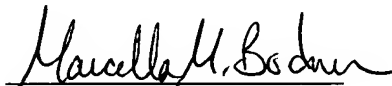
Also by the foregoing amendments, the specification of the present application has been amended to correct a typographical error and an inaccuracy which were identified and corrected during prosecution of the parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 09/962,487). No new matter has been added to the present application by the foregoing amendments.

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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